

been somewhat heavily handicapped in the matter of senior officers, and it was passed over last year when a cavalry contingent was sent to the 18th Cavalry Brigade, although in some respects a good regime has suffered from the same disadvantage in recent years. The 20th Hussars have only one officer placed in the 1st Cavalry Regiment, and has many recruits. Short more regiments be required, those standing for service after the 2d and 3d Cavalry Guards are the Royal Dragoons, 3rd Cavalry Guards, 4th Cavalry Guards, 5th Cavalry Guards. It is to be noted, however, that the 4th and 5th Dragoon Guards and the 19th and 20th Hussars, although among the first for service, are the most of senior officers, and the two former require only one subaltern and the two latter six each to bring them up to the strength required for foreign service.

It is doubtful whether in the present state of affairs the projected manoeuvres at Aldershot will take place. Should they do so the following regiments taking part there

the qualities which Macbeth, as a *killed* part, may be said to demand; but even in this respect he is scarcely, perhaps, as *solid* as Mr. Ringold. Otherwise I should say there was little to choose between the two versions. I have been recalling "Palestine," from the old Bicknell collection, sold for £3,150; "Fishermen upon a Lee-shore" and "Boats carrying out Anchors and Cables to Dutch men-of-war," both purchased by Mr. Benoni White from Lord Albemarle for £2,415, and £1,755 respectively three or four years ago; and "Ivy Bridge, Devon," was knocked down for £840. "Off Margate," a sketch, and "Squally Weather," another work of the same order, brought under two hundred pounds.

The annual meeting of the Church Defence Institution on Thursday was noteworthy for the very optimistic tone of the Primate's speech, as also for that of Mr. Edward Clarke, M.P., who said that in his opinion the Church had very little to fear from the present House

Galignani's Messenger.

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NOTICE.

A Four-page Supplement is published with this day's number of the MESSENGER, and will be delivered gratis with each copy of the paper. It contains our American news and an interesting variety of literary extracts.

Great Britain.

LONDON, JULY 19—20, 1882.

ENGLAND'S ACTION IN THE EAST.

For the last few days the solution of the Egyptian question has seemed to depend on the answer to be given by the Porte to the invitation addressed to it by the Conference. The Sultan has been formally requested by the Powers of Europe to exercise his sovereign rights for the restoration of order in Egypt. It was necessary that this proposition should be duly made in deference to the acknowledged relations subsisting between Turkey and Egypt. All the Powers of Europe have interests in Egypt which cannot be permanently sacrificed, and though the interests of England and France are by common consent superior both in kind and degree, yet the two Western Powers have frankly deferred to the authority of the European Concert and submitted the whole question to a Conference. The Conference, on its part, has agreed to invite the intervention of the sovereign Powers. But, whatever expectations may at one time have been entertained of the success or feasibility of this mode of proceeding—a mode in which France has only acquiesced with reluctance—such expectations are now very materially abated. It will be seen by our correspondence from Constantinople and elsewhere that the Porte is still inclined to a policy of inaction and expectancy. Events, however, do not wait in the meanwhile. The present condition of Egypt is such as to render indefinite delay disastrous, and very possibly fatal. The invitation to the Porte has been given, and there has been abundant time for an answer to be received. As no answer had been given up to last night, the English Government holds that it would be reprehensible to wait any longer. The hesitation of the Porte at a moment when hesitation was fatal has forced it to the conclusion that the invitation of the Conference has been virtually declined, and that nothing remains for it but to carry out by its own efforts the measures which are absolutely necessary for the restoration of order and the public peace in Egypt. There will accordingly be no further delay in carrying out the preparations for military action in Egypt, and definite orders will to-day be issued for the equipment and despatch of an expeditionary force for the purpose of doing the work which the Porte is held to have declined to undertake. The vote of the French Assembly, sanctioning the credit asked for by the Government by a majority of 340 to 66, leaves no doubt of the readiness of France to co-operate with England in Egypt. There seems, moreover, little reason to doubt that the sanction of the Conference will be given to the two Western Powers. The Conference has all along recognised the necessity of taking measures for the restoration of order in Egypt; that, indeed, is its *raison d'être*, and the non-compliance of the Porte must almost force it to accept the only possible alternative. Indeed, it would appear that the Conference has already agreed in principle upon the expediency of intrusting the protection of the Suez Canal to England and France, possibly in conjunction with some other Power; and though the two questions are distinct and might be differently viewed by some of the Powers concerned, it is probable that, in view of the Sultan's hesitation, the mandate would be extended so as to cover the whole Egyptian question. In any case, however, the English Government has now resolved that the necessary work must be undertaken, and undertaken at once. It cannot be said that England has acted with precipitation in the matter, or without due consideration for the very natural susceptibilities whether of the Porte or of other Powers. We have, indeed, pressed the appeal to the Sovereignty of the Sultan in opposition to the views of France, and though the appeal has failed we have nothing to regret in having made it. Whatever may happen, we have no desire whatever to travel outside or beyond the conditions we have all along laid down as essential to any permanent settlement of the Egyptian question. Precisely as if the Porte had taken the matter into its own hands, we shall aim at nothing more nor less than the re-establishment of the *status quo* in Egypt as regards its relations to the Sultan in accordance with existing firmans, the restoration of the authority of the Khedive in the internal government of the country, the fulfilment of international engagements, and the prudent and progressive development of Egyptian institutions. But there is no doubt that the Powers or Powers which re-establish order in Egypt and bear the burden and heat of such a day's work will claim a more potent voice than heretofore in the settlement of such questions as already await solution or may arise in the course of the undertaking. The Sultan and the Porte have been repeatedly urged by England and the other Powers to take steps for the suppression of anarchy in Egypt. The Sultan and the Porte first ignored the existence of anarchy, and then practically declined to interfere. The difficulties in which the Sultan finds himself are very clearly explained by our correspondent at Constantinople, and it is plain enough that they are by no means unreal or insignificant. But if the difficulties of the Sultan preclude his effectual intervention in Egypt, and if England and France have to undertake the work, they will do it on their own terms, though they will not swerve from the spirit of the conditions which they have throughout recognised as essential to the real welfare of Egypt. England is thus definitely involved in what cannot but be regarded as a very serious, albeit a necessary, undertaking. It is understood that we shall cordially accept the co-operation of other European Powers. But, in any case, the work will be undertaken, and we shall not flinch until it is accomplished. Such is the resolve of the Government, and its action in this respect will, probably, not be immediately or directly challenged by the Opposition. But the speeches made on Tuesday by Lord Carnarvon and Sir Richard Cross are a proof that the Opposition has not a little to say on the whole question, and we suppose that the traditions of party warfare would not be duly

satisfied if the policy of the Government were not formally passed in review and submitted to the inevitable censure. It is probable that a vote of censure will be moved condemning the Government for its dilatory action after the disturbances of the 11th of June, for its want of foresight and preparation when the bombardment of the 11th of July was resolved upon, and for the consequent destruction of life and property in Alexandria. This is what we will not and cannot say as it should be, but rather as it must be. An Opposition exists in order to oppose, and no Opposition, perhaps, could afford to neglect such an opportunity of delivering an attack in due form and force as is afforded by the course of events in Egypt and the action of the Government in regard to them. The tactics are old-fashioned, perhaps, but they are quite *en règle*. It is not in Parliamentary or in party human nature to pre-empt them. An evening at least, and very likely two or more, of the brief and busy time which still remains to the House of Commons before the recess must perforce be given to talking out the whole Egyptian question. The Opposition will propose to censure the Government for what it has done, for what it has neglected to do, possibly even by implication for what it is about to do. In the meanwhile, the country will recognize that, however inevitable the discussion may be, it will not vitally affect the Egyptian question as it stands at present, and that the eyes are not fixed on events as they occur in Egypt, it will follow the debate with some impatience and not a little indifference. Its real attention will be exclusively devoted to the work now to be undertaken by England and probably by France, after much hesitation, and after a delay which, however inevitable in the circumstances, has already produced deplorable results. It will recognize the magnitude of the Imperial interests at stake, not merely in the present but in the remote and distant future; but it will not forget the duty it owes to the country to respect the real interests of the country and promote the true welfare of its people. In this regard there is little that was said by M. Clémenceau in the debate in the French Assembly that the English people and the English Government are not fully prepared to endorse. The real grievances of Egypt will be considered, and, so far as may be, they will be remedied. We have no desire to govern Egypt for ourselves or to ignore the views of Egyptians as to the welfare of their country. But we cannot tolerate anarchy, confusion, and military violence in a country in which are so many important and vital. Now that the task of restoring order and good government is about to be undertaken in earnest, every Englishman must earnestly hope that it will not be abandoned until good government in every sense is re-established and the legitimate grievances from which Egypt has hitherto suffered are finally and completely removed.—*Times*.

THE PROTECTION OF THE SUZ CANAL.

The English people are indebted to the frankness of a French Minister for a piece of intelligence that concerns them far more than the rest of the world. M. de Freycinet, with a candour which it is much to be regretted our own Government by no means imitates, has acquainted us with the conclusion of an agreement between the Cabinets of London and Paris for the joint occupation and protection of the Suez Canal. At the very moment that M. de Freycinet was imparting this important information to the French Chamber, the English Prime Minister was displaying high indignation at being supposed to be capable of concealing anything, and denouncing the imputation as within a measurable distance of calumny. But it really seems to us that even when he was working himself up into this display of sensitiveness, he was then actually concealing from Parliament and the nation what it was of the highest consequence they should know. It is time to say that this sort of treatment of Parliament and the nation is unwarrantable, unprecedented, and that a determined stand should be made against it by the Leaders of the Opposition, in the interests of the country at large. The Prime Minister can hardly fail to be aware that this new experiment of his, to join France with us in protecting the Suez Canal, and to do so with the permission of Europe, will be regarded by many people as a virtual infringement of a solemn pledge he has several times given, and as a dangerous advance towards a consummation which every man of sense and foresight will deprecate. We have repeatedly heard proposals for the neutralisation of the Suez Canal. The suggestion is put forward ostensibly in the interests of humanity and peace, but it is really nothing else than an insidious attempt to prevent this country from using the canal in time of war. Mr. Gladstone and Sir Charles Dilke have over and over again stated within the past month that the Government could not permit this subject to be discussed by the Conference. But it is not clear that by agreeing with France to send a joint force to protect the Canal, if only Europe will allow them to do so, the Government are paving the way for the definite proposal that the Canal shall be taken under the protection of Europe? The Prime Minister is so enamoured of the European Concert, that seemingly nothing can be proposed that is to obtain its approval which he will not forthwith embrace and regard as sacrosanct. The European Concert has been the subject of much contemptuous criticism. But it will be no laughing matter if, by dint of our special position in Egypt, and made to share equally with others our special interest in the Suez Canal. We are going into Europe to control our judgment and limit our action. In a word, the direction of the Foreign Policy of England is to be transferred from Downing-street to any capital in which the European Concert happens to have its headquarters.—*Standard*.

THE EMBELLISHMENT OF GOVERNMENT STORES.—In consequence of the numerous and extensive frauds recently discovered in dockyard stores and victualling accounts, the Admiralty have decided to submit all ship, store-house, and dockyard accounts in future to the Treasury Audit Department for periodical inspection and examination. The change will necessitate a large increase in the staff of an expensive department, but their lordships consider the check and speedy discovery of laches will amply recompense them for the outlay.

THE STATE OF EGYPT.

RECALL OF DERSIVH PACHA.

HOSTILITY OF THE SULTAN TO ENGLAND.

The Alexandria correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphed on Wednesday:—I have just returned from visiting the forts Omuk, Rubebe, Tabia, Elusura, and Babel-mex, which were bombarded on the 11th by the inshore squadron—the *Invincible*, *Monarch*, and some other vessels. The forts were all in ruins. After seeing these forts one is amazed at the destruction accomplished, which is not visible from the sea, and at the bravery of the Arab gunners in remaining at their posts after the forts had been shelled. In one fort we counted several 18-ton guns, ten-inch Armstrongs; in another, four nine-inch and one ten-inch Armstrong; in another, two 15-inch smooth-bores, besides 40-pounder Armstrongs and any number of old 32-pounders. On the 11th one small battery gave the ships a deal of trouble, it being difficult to see because of the sun, but it was effectually silenced at last, every gun being knocked off the trunnions. The men's clothes and turbans were scattered in all directions. At Babel-mex some Armstrongs were knocked down, others were hit up with muzzle in the air; and embedded in one gun were found shots of many nine-inch and ten-inch Armstrongs that had never been mounted. The barracks and magazines are very strong, and are full of tons of gunpowder, fuses, and projectiles of every kind. In one building we found 300 five-hundred-pound gun mines; and in three stores, two of which were sealed up, were found a great number of shells, ranging from 10 to 150 lbs. weight. Everything was in good order, and the stock was kept nearly as methodically as in an English arsenal or man-of-war. The neighbourhood of the forts is quite deserted, with the exception of a few people, owners of the forts. We did not see any dead. They were reported to have been removed the same night, but we saw plenty of turbanes. Living Arabs never would have left these. There were fragments of burnt clothing, as if the men had torn them off in pieces.

Yesterday Dervish Pacha sent many messages to Constantinople, and received many from there. In the middle of the night one arrived recalling him and all his suite. Steam was got up on board the yacht *Isabelle*, and he left seven in the morning. Soon after it is believed other messages came, as efforts were made to stop the yacht, but they were unsuccessful.

A report was received that if Turkey hesitates any longer to send troops to Egypt to join England, with or without a third Power, in active interference, Arabi still remains, it is said, at Kafir Devar, and plays the part of military dictator as before. He makes and unmakes all appointments and dismissals, and is said to be to him for the service of the war. The Khedive's Ministers are afraid or are unwilling to outlaw him officially, although he is still using the Khedive's name as if still a Minister.

Mr. Cornish, of the Alexandria Water Company, has been ordered to proceed to Egypt to empty, cleanse, and refill the old Roman wells all over the town, the water supply being completely at Arabi's mercy. Labour is very scarce, and probably three weeks will be required for the work.

THE CONSTANTINOPLE CORRESPONDENT OF THE SAME JOURNAL SAYS:—

Previous to the burning of Alexandria the Sultan was generally considered to be the general view of his Council, that he would join England in restoring the *status quo ante* in Egypt, but the news of the partial destruction provoked a violent revulsion of opinion. He is now believed to be actually first of the second attack of Admiral Seymour which directly caused the excesses of the soldiery and the released convicts. Hence his opposition to the English policy continues strong. He is opposed to the troops to Egypt, and has even subdued his anger against Germany, and accepted the explanations furnished by Count Hirschildt of Germany's non-intervention. The moderate party in the Ottoman Government bitterly regret this hostility, which has led to the total loss of Egypt. The intentions of Said Pacha, the First Minister, are not altogether clear; but said thoroughly understands the position, and may simply be working in his own way to overcome a resistance which is full of peril to his position.

THE VIKIT

The promptitude that ought to be used in restoring order should at least equal that of Admiral Seymour in the bombardment of Alexandria, which has caused the loss of so many innocent lives and the destruction of the property of the labour of centuries. Admiral Seymour only consulted his own puerile eagerness and obstinacy to make a parade in the nineteenth century of such acts of oppression and brutality, and has made such haste to mark with the history of England that we may well ask what will be the position of Englishmen henceforth in Egypt. At last the hate that Mr. Gladstone has sworn against has succumbed to sordid misanthropy and discord between two great nations on one hand, and on the other, the Khedive and the Sultan. The *Vikit* does not believe the Khedive has asked any assistance from Admiral Seymour, and adds that, although orders reigns in Cairo, a sentiment of aversion exists, owing to the devastation committed by England.

DERVISH PACHA AND ARABI.

EXCITEMENT IN CAIRO.

The Alexandria correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, in a message dated Wednesday evening says:—Two more English regiments are expected immediately. Then it is possible we may advance. The *Orontes* came here empty by some mistake. I hear from good Egyptian sources that Arabi proposes to kill all the Turks in Egypt, and says as there are not many threats to it it is better to cut them now. We are preparing to dam the Mahmoudieh Canal, so that if Arabi interferes with it further off we shall have enough water to last some time. Our plan is to do it just before high water, so that the water will still be in the canal, but it is quite possible he will run out if he cuts the bank. We shall dam it about three miles outside the town. I have been round the outposts this morning. The line is now composed of Marines on the right and in rear of the centre. The Staffs Regiment is at the railway station, forming the centre, with officers' quarters in the station. The 60th Rifles are on the left, with headquarters at Rosetta. A few American and German sailors still remain in town at their respective consulates, but with this exception the city is held solely by English soldiers and Marines. The position, however, is somewhat critical.

General Alison has just made a reconnaissance from Ramleh in the direction of Arabi's camp in order to see what better ground might be chosen for our front, as we are unable to see more than four hundred yards from our present line. Arabi's outposts seem some miles distant. He has steam launches on the Mahmoudieh Canal bringing him provisions. This probably explains why he does not want it across, in which case we shall avoid the difficulty by damming the water just below his dam, as already explained. On Tuesday, Arabi caught an Egyptian sent out by the

English to get horses, which are very scarce here. The man had foolishly preserved his pass through the British lines, and Arabi shot him off-hand. This is a curious comment on the fact that Arabi is still maintaining some sort of relations with the Khedive, and that we declare the present condition of affairs one of peace, not of war. However, it is quite possible the state of things will change shortly. The two regiments coming here are the 35th and linked battalion to the 32nd. When these arrive we shall have enough to defend the Mahmoudieh. My own opinion is that Arabi will force us to move forward shortly after the Canal, just as he forced the bombardment. He certainly threatens our position, which might any day become untenable.

Messrs. General Alison is making every arrangement for peace, while warlike, and to get his force ready for any emergency. To-day the *Invincible* (ironclad) arrived with Rogers Bey and other refugees on board. The rest of the Inshore Squadron is expected from Cyprus to-morrow.

The Khedive went round the ruins of Alexandria to-day, and was evidently much affected by what he saw. He was accompanied by an escort of troops, and was saluted everywhere by people of all nationalities.

ENGLISH RULE IN ALEXANDRIA.

Telegraphing on Wednesday, the Alexandria correspondent of the *Times* remarks:—Englishmen have not usually enjoyed a great reputation for the administrative work of a campaign; but the very excellent and almost perfect way in which they have taken up the duties of this town, in circumstances of exceptional difficulty, has excited the admiration of all. I say "exceptional" difficulty, because it must be remembered that Sir Beauchamp Seymour came into possession of a mass of smoking ruins. Very few persons who were trustworthy, and who knew anything of the place, were near enough to be consulted; and those who remained had either their own business to attend to, or were unable to speak both English and Arabic. Mr. Fraser-Hadden was, naturally, secured as chief interpreter; but he has had the greatest difficulty in obtaining assistants. A town in ashes, a hostile, looting, and incendiary population, neither understanding the English language nor able to do any useful work, whatever it may be, provided the ruling powers are able to vindicate their authority. But I do not think that there is one among 100 natives in Alexandria who would willingly see a return of native rule; and many have asked me, with evident anxiety, whether there is no hope that our dominion may be extended over the whole country.

EXPECTED ATTACK BY ARABI.

The *Daily Telegraph* correspondent at Alexandria telegraphed Friday morning:—Last night our garrison here lay down under the impression that an attack by Arabi's forces was imminent. The chief ground for this anticipation was that the rebel leader had moved his outposts still nearer to the town. Preparations were accordingly made, and the morning surprise. At the first crack of dawn this morning everybody was well on the alert, but no trace of any further movement of the enemy was to be seen. A further reconnaissance is being made to discover whether there is any prospect of Arabi attempting to attack the city. With regard to the public executions that are to be carried out here to-day or to-morrow, I am asked to point out that the victims of this necessary measure are all prisoners who have been convicted of murdering Europeans under circumstances of exceptional barbarity during the bombardment. They have in each case been tried with great care, and condemned to death on sufficient evidence. In all probability these murderers will be shot by Egyptian troops. Lord Charles Baring, acting as Commandant of Port, besides despatching the employment of English troops for such a purpose, is further of opinion that if the work is done by the Egyptians the lesson to the natives will be all the more effective. It is quite possible these executions will continue some time. Every day brings to light fresh assassins who availed themselves of the confusion following the bombardment to commit pillage and murder.

Another message from the Alexandria correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* dated Thursday states:—Dervish Pacha left this morning. I hold in my possession copies of telegraphic messages showing that he has been in communication with Arabi at Kafir-Dawar up to the moment of his departure. Railway officials are collecting the histories of Egyptian soldiers, plate-layers, and other employees, everything being taken an early initiative on our part. General Roberts is reported to have landed at Suez.

Reports from Cairo state that Arabi sent up a party of soldiers to pillage the capital, but they were seized and executed by the commander at Cairo. The feeling amongst Europeans here about our inactivity is very acute. The desire that Arabi should be followed up, and dealt with in the manner he deserves, is so universal that great odium is being attached to the English at their apparent procrastination. Nothing would be easier, with the troops available at present, than to deal him a sudden and crushing blow, and cause him to lose the little prestige he holds over natives and soldiery. He had a most miraculous escape during the bombardment. He was haranguing about twenty soldiers at the railway station, and had just left when a shell fell amongst the ranks, killing a number of soldiers. According to the general accounts, his behaviour on the 11th fully bore out his previous character for personal cowardice. The troops have now been moved up to the Ramleh; but this is a rather tardy executed measure, as the Bedouins have done all the damage that was possible.

From Alexandria the *Standard* learns that among the Arabs the report is persistently current that Arabi intends to attack the city. Some confirmation to the rumour is to be found in the fact that Arabi is becoming greatly encouraged by the British inaction, and is beginning to manifest activity. On Wednesday his patrols penetrated over the city walls. The telegram continues:—The Palace officials are continually asking when we are going to take action against Arabi. Our officers are ashamed to acknowledge that they are tied down by orders from home. The feelings of chagrin and disgust at our forced inaction are general. An Egyptian official of high standing in the Khedive's household said to me this morning:—"Instant action is necessary, or the prestige you have acquired by the successful bombardment will be gone. It will be said and believed throughout the country that you have been beaten." The Khedive is now forced to admit that within the last two days the control of the country outside Alexandria has entirely slipped away from him.

Great satisfaction is expressed at the Palace at Dervish Pacha's departure. The officials there ascribe much of the present evil to his continued intrigues and counter-intrigues.

Even during the last few days he is suspected of communications with the rebels of a nature much removed from loyal to the Khedive, for whom he was at the time professing extreme goodwill and friendship.

Admiral Sullivan arrived this morning in the *Invincible*. Two other ships of the detached squadron are expected to-morrow. The only French vessels in the harbour are the *Alma* and *Hirondelle*; the remainder of their fleet remains at Port Said.

M. de Lesseps arrived this morning, and has had an interview with the Khedive. His sympathies formerly inclined towards Arabi and the National Party, but after seeing the ruin they have wrought he now expresses himself bitterly against them.

The great influx of Bedouins recently into Egypt is the result of intestine warfare, which has for some time been going on between the tribes. The powerful tribe of Taleebens have proved victorious, and their opponents have sought refuge in Egypt. The Taleebens are very hostile to Turkish or Egyptian rule. The chief difficulty of restoring order in the city continues to arise out of the conduct of the Greeks. They are quarrelsome in the extreme, and swagger over the natives as if they had destroyed the forts and taken the city. The hatred of the Arabs towards them is intense, and a serious outbreak of disorder may take place at any moment. Lord Charles Baresford is taking every precaution against such an event, and has issued a notice that he will make no distinction whatever between Europeans and natives who may break the peace.

As in some quarters complaints are made that the British Fleet failed to restore order in Alexandria, and so permitted the general looting and conflagration of the place, the following brief recapitulation of the events of the first few days will show that all that was possible with the very limited means at the command of the Admiral was done. Had he had at his command a force capable of at once landing and occupying the town, the scene of events would have been altogether different. The bombardment took place on Tuesday, and was partially renewed on the following day. On Wednesday night a reconnaissance on shore revealed the fact that the city was evacuated. The Fleet entered the harbour on Thursday before noon, and occupied the outside forts; but as the natives were still at the Rosetta Gate, and the Admiral had only three hundred men available for landing, nothing could be done until evening, when two hundred Marines marched through the town and dispersed the rioters. On Friday the whole available forces were engaged in the work of restoring order, which was as far as open acts were concerned. During the evening, during the operation nine or ten men were taken red-handed in the work of incendiarism, and shot in the streets. This produced the necessary effect. Since then only six men have been executed according to the terms of the Proclamation after a fair investigation and trial.

Alexandria is now as quiet as any city in England.

THE WAR PREPARATIONS IN ENGLAND.

Significant orders continue to be received at Woolwich from the War Office, augmenting the strength of the proposed expedition, and on Wednesday two additional batteries of field artillery had a warning to prepare for active service, making the artillery force detailed for Egypt eight batteries in all. Two complete field hospitals are to be established, the one at Malta and the other at Cyprus, each including several large marquees and the necessary furniture and fittings in every detail. A number of mechanics being required to proceed with the expedition in order to repair and attend to the *matériel*, volunteers were called for at the Royal Arsenal a few days back, liberal inducements being offered in the shape of 42 per week wages, with rations, and the men have readily come forward. They consist of wheelwrights, carpenters, and others accustomed to Government work, and they have all been promised a renewal of their present employment on their return to England.

Large sheets of zinc mounted on frames, for placing against a hut or tent when on fire, in order to screen those in the same locality, are being sent away for shipment. They are called "annihilators," and some of their kind have been used with great benefit for years past in the camps at home and in the Colonies. Fresh supplies of ammunition are being got ready for the fleet at Alexandria, in order to compensate for the deficiency occasioned by the bombardment, and the chief interest surrounds the great shells for the *Invincible's* 16-inch guns. Most of the shells are of the 16-inch diameter, and weigh 1,680 lb., a piece, or just three-quarters of a ton. Each contains a bursting charge of 60 lb. of powder, and they break up into from fifty to 100 fragments. Against the stone forts Palliser shell with steel point was used, and a supply of shrapnel and case shot, although it is not stated that these were employed, is being sent out. The shrapnel contains 860 balls, of 10 lb. each, to be driven forward by the bursting charge; and the case holds as many as 1,920 balls of 1 lb. each, altogether 1,730 lb.

About 100 fresh hands were taken on at the Royal Arsenal on Wednesday, mainly to meet the extra demand for the Nordenfildt and Martini-Henry cartridges. The Nordenfildt bullet was used, and is 3 in. long, 1 in. in diameter, and its special purpose is to pierce the light armour of torpedo boats, but it is said to have been extensively used in the recent engagement, the guns being then mounted, like the *Invincible's*, in the tops of the masts. The Nordenfildt munitives with its four parallel barrels, lightly mounted on a swivel, and delivering a deadly fire all round for more than 1,000 yards, is a formidable arm in the British Navy. It can discharge 500 shots a minute.

A private telegram, received in London on Wednesday afternoon, states that the Indian Government have made an offer to a firm in Bombay for a steamer for the transport of troops. A large number of vessels suitable for this service are being held by owners and agents, both at Bombay and Calcutta, and freights are unsettled. Inquiries were made in London on Wednesday afternoon for accommodation for the conveyance of 550 marines to Egypt.

A number of telegrams have been sent to Lord Charles Baresford, including one from the Prince of Wales, congratulating him on the part played by the gunboat under his command during the bombardment of Alexandria on the 11th inst.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE ON GOVERNMENT POLICY.—Sir Stafford Northcote has addressed the subjoined letter to Mr. A. B. Forwood, who sent to him copies of resolutions adopted at a Conservative meeting held recently in Hope Hall, Liverpool:—"30, St. James's-place, S.W., July 15, 1882.—My dear Sir,—I have to thank you for sending me the resolutions passed at Hope Hall. I cannot at this moment enter upon the very grave questions to which the events in Egypt must give rise. As regards the other resolutions, I cordially agree with the meeting in attributing the present state of affairs in the country outside Alexandria to the conduct of the Government, and in condemning the proposed Rules of Procedure in their present shape.—I remain faithfully yours, STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE." The Marquess of Salisbury has also written to Mr. Forwood acknowledging receipt of the resolutions.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, in answer to a question from Mr. Goschen, said that it would not be desirable to state the steps taken and contemplated for the protection of European life and property at Port Said, Ismailia, and Suez, he could assure him that nothing had been neglected which was the right of the House. The House then went into Committee and concluded the consideration of the Arrears Bill. Several new clauses were proposed by private members and negatived. The most important was a clause by Sir G. Campbell providing that a release from arrears should be a bar to proceeding by other creditors, which was resisted by Mr. Gladstone on the ground that the object of the Bill was to put the tenant in a position to go into the Land Court, and that it was not intended to interfere with his debtors. It was necessary for that purpose. After this amendment had been negatived, none of the members in whose names the other new clauses stood being present, the Chairman put the question that the Bill be reported with amendments. A division was taken on this motion, and it was carried by 128 to 38. On the question that the Bill be reported to-day, Mr. Gibson, remarking that the latter stages of the bill had been passed with a rapidity which had taken many by surprise, asked for an assurance that an opportunity would be given for a discussion of the new clause relating to emigration standing in the name of Mr. Gregory, in which, he said, much interest was felt. Mr. Gladstone, who repudiated without reserve the suggestion that there had been unusual haste, stated that the bill would be re-committed for the purpose of discussing the subject. He also announced that the Government would immediately take the steps requisite to enable them to appoint a new Land Commissioner. The bill had not been printed to-day and the third reading for Friday. The next order was the Contagious Diseases Acts Repeal Bill, and after the Speaker had disposed of a preliminary objection taken on the ground that the bill had not been printed, it was called on by Mr. Callan to exclude strangers. On this point a division was taken, and the House declined by 173 to 36 to clear the galleries. With regard to the Ladies' Gallery, the Speaker said he had closed the over which he had control, and directed the messengers at the other to acquaint the ladies who presented themselves of the nature of the business. Mr. Stansfeld having moved the second reading, Mr. Childers met it by the Previous Question, on the ground that a Committee was now sitting, and that it was not a proper time to move the second reading of his Bill for Prohibiting the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday, and he energetically denounced it as the offspring of tyranny and cant. In the end it was talked out, and in the course of the discussion Sir J. Pease spoke in favour of the principle, but with the reservation that the details would require considerable modification. Mr. Stewart testified to the success of the Irish Act; and Mr. Gibson, who corroborated this, joined with Sir H. Selwin-Ibbetson and Mr. G. Talbot in insisting that a change of this importance should not be made until the responsible Government of the day had taken on it. Mr. Hildart, the only member of the Government present, declined to express anybody's opinion but his own, which he said was favourable to Sunday closing, though not to this particular Bill. Mr. Phipps spoke against the Bill, and Mr. Callan, who asked it out, accused the Home Secretary of "dodging behind the Speaker's Chair" when the bill was called on. Some other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at six o'clock.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM "TRUTH.")

There is a great demand for houses at Coves this season. Egypt, which had been taken by Lord and Lady Dudley, is the subject, and has not yet found a tenant. Sir Thomas and Lady Bressy have taken Rosetta, and Montreuil has just been sold to Lady Wickens. Lady Harrington has a large family party with her at Stanhope Lodge, and Lord and Lady Dorchester and Lady Harrington are expected at their respective villas. It is understood that the Empress Eugénie will occupy Osborne Cottage for a short time.

The marriage of the Duke of Westminster and the Hon. Katherine Cavendish will take place by special licence on Saturday week at Folkestone Hall, Norfolk, the family place of the bride's brother-in-law, Lord Leicester. The ceremony will be strictly private, and only a few of the nearest relatives will be present. The Duke and Duchess will pass their honeymoon at Park Hill House, Wiltshire, the mansion built on the site of Beckford's Abbey by the late Marquis of Westminster.

To obtain accurate information respecting the shooting prospects in Scotland is exceedingly difficult, as it is everybody's interest in the North to make the best of the season. It is particularly concerned to put about unfavourable reports; but there seems no reason to doubt that the grouse disease has increased considerably during the last few weeks, and that it prevails generally throughout the Highlands. The season is not yet open, except Luchluchart (Lady Ashburton in Ross-shire), and Blackmount (Lord Breadalban in Argyleshire, leased to Lord Dudley), which was occupied last year by Sir Henry Balfour, who has this season been in Egypt, and has been having taken Lord Seafield's shootings and forest Balmacraan, beyond Inverness.

The origin of the present troubles in Egypt was a specification of Ismail. He had 6,000 into the hands of his friends in Cairo, with which they were to buy support for him. Two negro regiments were purchased. He was to land, and these regiments, with Arabi at their head, were to declare for him. After he had spent his money, his head of him, and then Arabi determined to act without him. He at once turned to Constantinople, and promised large sums of money if he were supported. Then commenced a series of intrigues, into which the French allowed themselves to be drawn. When Dervish Pacha was sent to Egypt, his mission was, if possible, to patch up some sort of apparent reconciliation between Arabi and the Khedive, which would have been followed by the deposition of the latter. The Sultan, however, when the crisis came, was afraid of discovery, and, in the end, Dervish, acting under his instructions, urged Arabi to act with moderation. But Arabi knew with whom he had to deal, and he declined to put himself in Turkish hands; in which perhaps he was wise, for he would have been strangled or poisoned as an inconvenient and compromising associate.

The Government are to be praised for having cut the Gordian knot by the bombardment of the forts of Alexandria. But they would have been wiser had they taken the precaution to have some troops at hand. Had 5,000 troops been landed, Alexandria would not have been massacred, and the troops of Arabi would probably have at once gone over to the winning side. The landing of English troops would have been justified to Europe on the ground of the inevitable logic of events. No one can for a moment assert that, with the means to do so, the English Admiral would have been blamed by anyone for preventing incendiary fires or massacres. The Peace-at-all-Prices party is not very strongly represented in the House of Commons. Their total number is probably under twenty, and of these perhaps half-a-dozen would vote against Ministers if they thought that the result of the vote would be a Ministerial defeat. But it is so unlikely that a vote of want of confidence would net alkio